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DEDICATED TO ALL OUR BROTHERS WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO  
MARINE COMMUNICATIONS

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\*\*\* LANTANA RADIO (WOE) CLOSES... THE FCC ALLOWED RCA TO CLOSE 28 JUNE 1986 AT 0400Z. THE LONG-STANDING SOUTHEAST FLORIDA STATION PROVIDED EXCELLANT 500 KHZ WARNINGS OF HURRICANES. OFTEN THE WATCH OPERATOR WOULD CALL UP ON 500 KHZ WITH NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WX HOT OFF THE PRINTER. (I HAVE RECEIVED WX SENT FROM NWS HURRICANE CENTER WITHIN 15 MINS AFTER ISSUE THIS WAY.) I WILL MISS THIS STATION. IT'S SAD THAT RCA DIDN'T PUT A CENT INTO LANTANA FOR MANY YEARS... AFTER ALL WOE WAS VERY USEFULL FOR WAKING U.S.C.G. NMA UP WHEN THE COASTIES WERE SLEEPING... RADIO OFFICERS TRANSITING THE AREA ARE REQUESTED TO KEEP A SHARP WATCH ON 500 TO AID IN THIS AREA OF REDUCED WATCHKEEPING.

\*\*\* THUGS BREAK INTO WESTHAVEN RADIO/WKM... JUST BEFORE CLOSING (10PM LT) ON 9 JUNE 1986, TWO MEN ENTERED THE STATION AND ASSAULTED THE WATCH OPERATOR, ROBBED HIM AND DESTROYED COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT INCLUDING CQ KEYS, TELEX MACHINES, WEATHER COMPUTER, AND STOLE FOUR RECEIVERS. MANAGER DOUG LOSTY IS NOW LOOKING FOR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT. MR. LOSTY SAYS THAT HE IS ALSO IN NEED OF A FEW QUALIFIED OPERATORS TO MAN THE MF/HF RADIOTELEGRAPH STATION. GOOD LUCK DOUG, HOPE YOU GET BACK ON THE AIR SOON.

\*\*\* MOBILE RADIO'S JOHN KLEMM SAID RECENTLY THAT HE IS GOING TO PUT THE NEW AUTO TELEX SYSTEM ON THE AIR SHORTLY. THIS SYSTEM IS SIMILAR TO THE GKA SYSTEM, BUT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY REDESIGNED FOR THE AMERICAN TELEX SYSTEM. MR. KLEMM ADDED THAT WLO HAS SPENT A GOOD DEAL OF TIME AND MONEY DEVELOPING A SMART LANDLINE SWITCH THAT PROMISES TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF SHIP-SHORE COMMS. WLO WAS #1 IN SITOR IN THE U.S.A., AND IT LOOKS LIKELY THAT THEY WILL SCOOP CHATHAM RADIO AT BEING THE FIRST U.S. STATION TO HAVE FULLY AUTO TELEX. LOOK OUT COMSAT -- HERE COMES RADIO AND WE CAN MAKE A PROFIT.

\*\*\* SPEAKING OF COMSAT... THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME SORT OF "PROMOTION" GOING ON. I SAW SOMETHING ON A PRINTER ABOUT PRIZES BEING OFFERED TO RADIO OFFICERS (YES, FRIENDS, ONE OF THE FEW TIMES I'VE HEARD THEM MENTION THE WORD R/O! --- REMEMBER THE ADVERT WITH ALL THE CHIEF MATES AND CAPTAINS SAYING HOW FANTASTIC SATCOM WAS? NO R/O IN THAT PIX!)... DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT? PERHAPS IT IS AN ATTEMPT TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE ABRASIVE P.R. THEY'VE BEEN GIVING US RECENTLY? PLS SEND INFO...

\*\*\* COMSAT JOKE DEPT... REMEMBER THE GOOD ONE THEY TOLD TO THE 1984 CONGRESSIONAL SAFETY HEARING? "500 KHZ HAS A MAXIMUM RANGE OF 300 MILES UNDER ANY CONDITIONS"? OR HOW ABOUT THE MIS-QUOTE OF QE2'S CHIEF R/O SAYING THAT THE PACIFIC COVERAGE OF THE BIRD WAS FINE FOR DISTRESS? SEEMS FOLKS ARE STILL MYSTIFIED BY A BIT OF FLASH-PAPER MAGIC... BUT REALLY SATCOM'S JUST ANOTHER KIND OF RADIO... NOT A CURE ALL. ASK YOUR CONGRESSMAN IF HE WOULD LIKE TO PUT ALL HIS COMMUNICATIONS EGGS IN A SMALL ORBITING BASKET? I MET WITH CONGRESSMAN GERRY STUDDS (D-MASS) AND AFTER A 45-MIN. OUTLINE OF THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF CW/SITOR/SSB/FM/SATCOM COMMS I GOT THIS POSITIVE RESPONSE IN A LETTER FROM HIM: I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO RETAIN THE CURRENT 500 KHZ RADIOTELEGRAPH SYSTEM. IT SEEMS THAT NO ONE HAD EVER SAT DOWN WITH HIM AND DISCUSSED THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF MARINE COMMUNICATIONS. SITOR ALTHOUGH ACCURATE THROUGH COLLISIONS OF NOISE AND SIGNALS IS DESIGNED TO IGNORE ANY OTHER STATION REGARDLESS OF IF IT HAS A DISTRESS MESSAGE OR NOT. I EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT IN MANUAL MORSE COMMUNICATIONS BECAUSE THE OPERATOR'S EAR IS ALWAYS ON THE FREQUENCY, A SHIP IN DISTRESS CAN FIND THE FREQUENCY AND START SENDING "SOS" AND THE COAST STATION OF WILL SAY TO THE SHIP THAT HE IS WORKING, "WAIT - I'VE GOT INTERFERENCE" AND WHEN HE DOES THAT THE SHIP IN DISTRESS CAN BUST IN AND CALL



HIM. CONGRESSMAN STUDDS AGREED WITH ME THAT ALTHOUGH MANUAL MORSE STATIONS ARE MORE COSTLY TO RUN, IT COULD NOT COMPARE TO THE ALTERNATIVES. HE APPRECIATED KNOWING THAT OTHER SHIPS MAKE LOGS OF ALL THE DISTRESS COMMUNICATIONS WHICH ARE FILED WITH THE F.C.C.. WHERE ELSE COULD YOU GET SO MANY LOGS CONFIRMING WHAT WAS SAID? AND MORE IMPORTANTLY WHERE ELSE WILL YOU GET SO MANY EXPERIENCED RADIO OPS POOLING THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES -- SKILLS THAT RESCUE CO-ORDINATION CENTER DESK JOCKIES COULD ONLY DREAM OF HAVING. DID YOU KNOW THAT COMSAT CONSIDERS DISTRESS COMMS TO BE PRIVILEGED INFO? THE F.C.C. HAD A JEWEL OF A TIME GETTING COMSAT'S SOS LOG OF THE DISTRESS COMMS FROM THE PAX SHIP PRINSENDAM/PJTA DISTRESS OF OCT. 1980, FINALLY, THEY HAD TO GO TO COURT TO GET WHAT LITTLE INFO COMSAT WOULD RELEASE. IF THESE FOLKS ARE COVERING UP NOW, WHAT WILL THEY DO IN THE FUTURE?

\*\*\* NOTES FROM THE OZONE LAYER \*\*\*

THE FOLLOWING INFO IS SENT IN BY VARIOUS CORRESPONDANTS AND WE ARE NOT RESPONSABLE FOR ITS ACCURACY OR CONTENT. IF YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE PLEASE SEND INFO TO US AND IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO HAVE YOUR NAME MENTIONED, PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER... TKS...

\*\*\* A USCG VETTRAN RADIOMAN WRITES THAT HE IS PARTICULARLY UPSET ABOUT THE VARIOUS BIG WHEELS GIVING ORDERS TO THE COMMSTA'S TO SEND OUT SOS FOR SITUATIONS THAT ARE REALLY XXX. HE SAYS, RECENTLY, CG COMMSTAS HAVE SENT OUT SOS FOR OVERDUE BOATS AND XXX FOR A PASSENGER VSL ON FIRE. I AGREE WITH HIM, IT DOES MAKE THE CG LOOK LIKE A BUNCH OF INCOMPETANT BANANAS. CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN THESE JOKERS HAVE THE POWER OF THE FGMDSS IN THEIR HANDS? "HEY, RCC, I'M SINKING, NOW PRETTY PLEASE WITH SUGAR ON IT WOULD YOU TRY AND DO IT RIGHT?" RCC, IT SEEMS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATION DISTRESS WORK, NO LONGER AS AN ADJUNCT TO SHIP COMMS, BUT REALLY CONTROLLING IT. HEAVEN HELP US...

\*\*\* ANOTHER COASTIE REPORTS THAT THERE'S A RUMOUR ABOUT CONCERNING SUBCONTRACTING WATCH ON VHF, MF AND 500 TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR...

\*\*\* ONE SOURCE REPORTS THAT THINGS OVER IN LONDON SEEM TO BE GETTING BETTER FOR US. THE "LOW-TECH" COUNTRIES DON'T WANT TO SPEND BIG BUCKS ON THE NEW FGMDSS RIGS THAT THE "HIGH-TECH" COUNTRIES WILL BE SELLING THEM. IT SEEMS THESE COUNTRIES LIKE THE R/O. SOME OF THE FOREIGN FLAGS SEND ROUTINE MESSAGES OF ENGINEERING INFO ETC. VIA CW SHIP TO SHIP TO BE MAILED BY THE SHIP NEXT IN PORT. TOO BAD THE U.S. SHIP COMPANIES DON'T DO THIS. REMEMBER COMSAT CHARGES \$ 8.00/MIN FOR SHIP TO SHIP, AND WE CAN DO IT FOR FREE. HE SAYS THAT SOME OF THE COMPANIES ARE SAVING OVER \$200 A DAY DOING THIS COMPARED WITH COAST STATION CHARGES. R/O ON THESE SHIPS SEEMS WELL WORTH HIS WAGES PLUS.

\*\*\* LATE WORD FROM THE ROU HAS NEW PRES. TOM HARPER WHO IS HEALING FROM A BROKEN LEG AND SECTY-TREAS. LEW SMITH WORKING HARD FOR THE R/O. GOOD LUCK BOYS - YOU'LL NEED IT. PERHAPS AT THE VERY LEAST WE CAN GET ENOUGH MONEY TOGETHER TO ERECT A 25-FOOT HIGH RADIO OFFICER MEMORIAL WITH THE WORDS "WE TOLD YOU SO" ERECTED IN FRONT OF WALL STREET PLAZA.

\*\*\* LATE WORD FROM BEN RUSSEL -- COMMSTA SAN JUAN P.R IS TO CLOSE H-F MORSE. LETTERS OF COMPLAINT REQUESTED TO COMMANDANT, U.S.C.G. COMMSTA SAN JUAN, PR. TKS.

GRU FOR NOW. PLEASE IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT IN YOUR #10 S.A.S.E.'S RECENTLY PLEASE DO. AS ALWAYS YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO DUPLICATE THIS LETTER AND SEND IT TO YOUR FELLOW RADIO OPS. TU OP 73 DE DR

PROCOMM, C/O D. J. RING 65 HEYWOOD AVE., MELROSE, MASS. 02176